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of any extension rests solely within the discretion of the Administrator.

(d) The legal documents executed between the Borrower and the Administrator in connection with a zero-interest loan and/or grant must contain certain provisions giving the Administrator discretionary rights and remedies in the event a Borrower fails to comply with this subpart, other Federal regulations and statutes, or the terms, conditions and requirements of the executed legal documents. Regardless of any right or remedy the Administrator chooses to assert, if the Borrower uses any zero-interest loan and/or grant funds other than for approved purposes, the Borrower will be required to return to RUS the amount used for unapproved purposes. An unauthorized zero-interest loan amount which is returned will be considered a prepayment on the RUS note.

(e) Borrowers receiving zero-interest loans and/or grants will be subject to a rural economic development review of zero-interest loan and grant funds.

(f) The borrower must promptly notify the Administrator in writing if another entity is in default on a pass-through-loan between the borrower and the entity.

(g) Grants provided under this program will be administered in accordance with 7 CFR part 3015 and 7 CFR part 3016, as appropriate. Copies of these USDA Uniform Assistance regulations can be obtained by contacting RUS in Washington, DC. A Borrower that receives a grant for the establishment of a revolving loan fund, or project owner that receives a pass-through loan and grant, will be subject to requirements under these regulations which cover, among other things, financial reporting, accounting records, budget controls, record retention and audit requirements. For pass-through loans and grants, RUS Borrowers will be required to include in their legal documents the requirement for project owners to provide sufficient financial, accounting and budget information and other records deemed necessary to facilitate audits in accordance with 7 CFR part 3015 and 7 CFR part 3016 for non-profit entities, and RUS rural economic development loan

reviews for projects in a for-profit status.

(h) For pass-through loans and grants awarded under this subpart, the Borrower must diligently monitor performance to ensure that time schedules are being met, projected work by time periods is being accomplished, and other performance objectives are being achieved. The Borrower must submit an original and one copy of each report to RUS on an annual basis. The project performance reports shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for that period;

(2) Reasons why any established objectives were not met;

(3) A description of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions which have occurred, or are anticipated, and which may affect the attainment of overall project objectives, prevent meeting of time schedules or objectives, or preclude the attainment of particular project work elements during established time periods. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken or planned to resolve the situation; and

(4) Objectives and timetable established for the next reporting period.

(i) For pass-through loans and grants, a final project performance report will be required with the last SF 269, "Financial Status Report," available from RUS in Washington, DC. The final report also must provide an evaluation of the success of the project in meeting the objectives of the program. The final report may serve as the last annual report.

(j) Monitoring requirements for Borrowers receiving grants for revolving loan funds are specified in § 1703.22.

[57 FR 44317, Sept. 25, 1992, as amended at 59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§ 1703.67 Changes in project objective or scope.

For loans and grants awarded under this subpart, the Borrower must obtain prior approval for any material change to the scope or objectives of the approved project, including changes to the scope of work or budget. Failure to obtain prior approval of changes can

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result in suspension or termination of grant funds.

[59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§ 1703.68 Loan and grant termination provisions.

(a) *Termination for cause.* The Administrator may terminate any loan and/or grant in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of completion of loan and/or grant disbursement, whenever the Borrower has failed to comply with the conditions of the loan and/or grant. The Administrator will promptly notify the Borrower in writing of the termination and the reasons for the termination, together with the effective date. The termination date will be no less than 30 days following receipt of the termination notice. The Borrower will have such time to cure the default, or to state why it feels the loan and/or grant should not be terminated. The Administrator will stay the termination upon the curing of the default, and may delay termination if, sufficient cause has been given by the Borrower.

(b) *Termination for convenience.* The Administrator or the Borrower may terminate a loan and/or grant in whole, or in part, when both parties agree that the continuation of the project would not produce beneficial results commensurate with further expenditure of funds. The two parties will agree upon termination conditions, including the effective date, and in the case of partial terminations, the portion to be terminated. The Borrower will not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date, and will cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible. The Administrator will allow full credit to the Borrower for the Federal share of unfulfilled contractual obligations which were incurred in good faith by the Borrower prior to grant termination.

[59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§§ 1703.69–1703.79 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Rural Business Incubator Program [Reserved]

§§ 1703.80–1703.99 [Reserved]

Subpart D—Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program—General

SOURCE: 64 FR 14357, Mar. 25, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1703.100 Purpose.

The purpose of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loan and Grant Program is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. This subpart describes the general policies for administering the DLT program. Subpart E contains the policies and procedures related to grants; subpart F contains the policies and procedures related to a combination loan and grant; and subpart G contains the policies and procedures related to loans.

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(a) The transmission of information is vital to the economic development, education, and health of rural Americans. To further this objective, RUS will provide financial assistance to distance learning and telemedicine projects that will improve the access of people residing in rural areas to educational, learning, training, and health care services.

(b) In providing financial assistance, RUS will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for distance learning and telemedicine services. RUS believes that generally the need is greatest in areas that are economically challenged, costly to serve, and experiencing outward migration. This program is consistent with the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that designate telecommunications service discounts for schools, libraries, and rural health care centers. RUS will take into consideration the community's involvement in the proposed project and the applicant's ability to leverage grant funds.